



Announcing—An important change in shipping temperatures

August 2005

Dear Travel Health Professional:

I am pleased to inform you that YF-VAX vaccine will now be shipped at refrigerated temperatures (2°C to 8°C [35°F to 46°F]), rather than frozen, within the United States.¹ Upon delivery, YF-VAX vaccine should still be refrigerated.¹ This important change in the shipping and storage temperatures for YF-VAX vaccine means added convenience for you and your staff:

- Eliminates the need to handle and dispose of dry ice
- Eliminates concerns about proper cold chain management

As you know, yellow fever is endemic and intermittently epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa and South America.² But what you may not realize is that a resurgence of yellow fever in many endemic countries is putting travelers at increased risk:

- In Africa, the risks of illness and death due to yellow fever in an unvaccinated traveler in endemic areas are estimated to be 1:1000 and 1:5000 per month, respectively. For a 2-week stay, the risks of illness and death are 1:2000 and 1:10,000, respectively.²
- South America experienced an increase in yellow fever transmission during the 1990s, with activity expanding in Brazil and Peru²
- 80% of cases of yellow fever among travelers from the United States and Europe from 1996 through 2002 were exposed in South America. All cases were fatal—*and occurred in unvaccinated travelers.*²

Therefore, YF-VAX (Yellow Fever Vaccine) vaccine should be recommended and given to individuals who are traveling to high-risk areas. Following administration of one subcutaneous injection (0.5 mL) of YF-VAX vaccine, approximately 90% of vaccinated adults achieve protective immunity within 10 days after primary vaccination; immunity lasts for 10 years.^{1,3,4}

YF-VAX vaccine should not be administered to an individual with a history of hypersensitivity to egg, chicken protein, or to any other component of the vaccine. Infants <9 months of age should not be vaccinated. Yellow fever vaccine is contraindicated in immunosuppressed or immunocompromised patients. Mild injection site reactions, headache, myalgia, fever, and asthenia may occasionally occur.^{1,4,5} Rarely, syndromes described as yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic and neurotropic disease have been reported.^{1,4,5} As with any vaccine, vaccination with YF-VAX vaccine may not protect 100% of individuals. Before administering YF-VAX vaccine, please see enclosed full Prescribing Information.

We at sanofi pasteur believe that your job—safeguarding the health of international travelers—is a vital one, for both the individual traveler and the community at large. So let us help you keep your traveling patients healthy. To order YF-VAX vaccine, or any other product from the full line of sanofi pasteur travel vaccines, log on to **www.vaccineshoppe.com** or call 1-800-**VACCINE** (1-800-822-2463).

Sincerely,



Daniel Gordon, MD
Vice President
Clinical Affairs

References: 1. YF-VAX vaccine Prescribing Information, April 2005. 2. Russell M, Eidex RB, Hayes E, et al. Yellow fever. In: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Health Information for International Travel, 2005—2006*. Atlanta: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, 2005. 3. Monath TP, Cetron MS. Prevention of yellow fever in persons traveling to the tropics. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2002;34:1369-1378. 4. CDC. Yellow fever vaccine recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2002. *MMWR*. 2002;51:1-10. 5. Monath TP, Nichols R, Archambault WT, et al. Comparative safety and immunogenicity of two yellow fever 17D vaccines (Arilvax and YF-VAX) in a phase III multicenter, double-blind clinical trial. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2002;66:533-541.

YF-VAX vaccine is manufactured and distributed by Sanofi Pasteur Inc. (formerly Aventis Pasteur Inc.).

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